

Dear Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Human Services Committee:

My name is Jenny Galian , I am from Branford.

I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN FOR AN INCOME ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN HEALTH CARE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY to age 18, regardless of immigration status, is an important step in ensuring that our immigrant community has access to the health care we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and health care to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I am a mother who lives in Branford and this legislation is important because I have a 15 year old boy who since he arrived here in the US, he started gaining weight and experienced a lot of bullying and harassment at school. Because of this, he got very sick and lost a lot of weight, ultimately leading to anorexia. Now, he needs continuous medical attention and psychological sessions in order to overcome his condition.

I don't have a lot of resources to pay for his consults and medications and I haven't found any help to get him low cost medical attention. I have had to decide between paying for rent and paying for his medical care because my child always comes first. But now, the services he needs for anorexia is so much that I can't afford to pay for everything he needs.

This law would help me a lot because then I can finally make medical appointments and pay for my child's medications and psychological sessions. Because of all the stress I have been under with my son's situation, I also have started to have serious thyroid problems for which I have gone to a rheumatologist, but I also cannot afford to get this medical care as often as I need because I have had to help my son first with his medical issues. I don't have the time or money to focus on my own health.

I support S.B. 284 and ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Going forward, I ask the committee to work to open access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,
Jenny Galian